

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

CHICAGO 37 · ILLINOIS

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

950 EAST FIFTY-NINTH STREET

February 7, 1949

Mr. Robert S. Gill, President,  
The Passano Foundation, Inc.,  
Mt. Royal & Guilford Aves.,  
Baltimore 2, Md.

Dear Mr. Gill:

After surveying the candidates submitted for the Passano Foundation Award, I have decided to cast my vote as follows:

Charles B. Huggins, 8 points

Oswald T. Avery, 2 points.

The reason for casting 8 points for the work of Huggins is as follows. He was the first to demonstrate the possibility of very extensive control of widespread carcinoma (of the prostate) in man by medicines. The use of estrogenic hormones in his clinical observations and experiments was the first instance of amelioration of cancer by agents of known chemical composition aside from radioactive elements. Cancer has become such a grave problem and has been responsible for such a large amount of work and expense in an endeavour to control it by measures other than surgical that Huggins' work will stand as a landmark in the field of cancer therapy. He attained his success in treatment of human disease by a systematic study of the chemistry and physiology of prostatic secretion of animals and man. He devised a physiologic assay technique whereby the prostatic secretion could be collected quantitatively in the dog, and carried on an integrated study of numerous interacting agents, hormonal and otherwise, antecedent to the secretion of prostatic fluid, the prostate serving as an end-organ in this complex. Dogs with benign and malignant prostatic tumors frequently underwent regression after castration <sup>and</sup> estrogen administration. Patients with prostatic cancer were then similarly treated, and about 90% had some degree of remission of the disease. About 25% remained alive and apparently free from disease 5 to 8 years later. Blood enzyme studies confirmed the effectiveness of anti-androgenic therapy in these patients. These and other physiological and biochemical studies related to normal and carcinomatous prostates comprise one of the outstanding *recent* contributions to modern medicine.

*much less* The work of Dr. Oswald T. Avery is also of great fundamental importance but with the advent of the recent antibiotic and chemo-therapy, it has become relatively ~~important~~ in relation to therapy since these agents are effective against pneumonia produced by all forms of pneumococcus (and also several other bacteria) *making type determination unnecessary for purposes of treatment.*

REC'D FEB 9 1949

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The work of Phillip Levine and Alexander Wiener is of great clinical importance. However, most of the fundamentals were contributed by Landsteiner for which reason I do not believe that their contributions are to be classed with those of Huggins or Avery.

Sincerely yours,

*Dallas B. Phemister.*

Dallas B. Phemister, M.D.